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October 22, 2021

**Invitation for Bid**

GSA-065-21

14 Passenger ADA Compliant Cutaway Buses  
(For Guam Regional Transit Authority)

**Concern 1:**

Request for clarification concerning certain amendments to GSA-065-21. Specifically, the amendments to the specifications proposed by Soderholm, on September 2, 2021.

Amendments #1 and #2 appear to change the specifications so that only one bidder can actually qualify thereby circumventing the competitive bidding process that is mean to ensure that the government receives the best possible value under the circumstances.

Furthermore, the requirements differ from the prior bid issued by the agency only insofar as the amendment would limit the pool of potential offerors to only the individual bidder that requested the amendment.

We understand that your agency would not knowingly make changes to specifications that would undermine the procurement process and the overarching policy of fair competition that would lead to the government receiving the best price for conforming goods or services and would like this matter clarified.

**Response:** Clarification on certain amendments to the subject procurement. Specifically, the amendment number 1 and 2 proposed by Soderholm Bus & Mobility (SB&M) on September 2, 2021:

- Extend the bid submission for two (2) weeks from September 16, 2021 to September 20, 2021.
- Extend the submission of questions to five (5) business days from September 07, 2021 to September 14, 2021.

GRTA utilized federal funds to acquire the rolling stocks and complies faithfully with the Federal Transit Administration Circular FTA C 42201F specifically Chapter VI: Procedural Guidance for Open Market Procurement, 1/ a/ Solicitation by the Recipient. Compliance with the solicitation procedures described in this Chapter will fulfill FTA requirements for "full and open competition."

Moreover, chapter VI 3, C.(2)(D): **"Bidders are allowed sufficient Time to prepare bids before the date of bid opening"**. The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to interrupt and decelerate the world economy inducing labor and supply shortages. Therefore, granting SB&M extension requests favors all potential bidders.

Furthermore, this particular bid requirements differ from our prior bus solicitation specifications. GRTA does not limit itself to one specific rolling stock specification. GRTA continually improves the bus specifications based on issues encountered during the contract implementation. GRTA received inputs from our transit riders concerning the type of bus equipment to acquire to ease their ingress and egress, to provide comfortable trips by adapting to new technologies that are currently available, etc.

The federal and local government requirements to encourage competition in all procurement solicitations. The amendments and additions to the specifications were made to clarify and provide more options fostering bid competition.



( ANITA T. CRUZ (Acting)  
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Please Print

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT COPY (Re-fax to GSA)

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